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IN THE CLAIMS:

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comprising the steps of:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 17, 18 and 23, cancel claims 20 and 22, and add new claims 24 and 25 as follows:

- Claim 1. (currently amended) An information providing method for a network, for providing, via a network, content that constitutes an entire body of information based on conditions that are defined in advance,
- generating a finite number of intermediate contents for content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said intermediate contents are hieratically structured according to an amount of information entent the number of pages contained therein;
- assigning each of said finite number of intermediate contents an information level based on said amount of information content; and selecting at least one of said intermediate contents and providing information at a selected level.
- 1 Claim 2. (original) The information providing method according to 2 claim 1, wherein information contained in said content is employed as said 3 intermediate content.
- Claim 3. (original) The information providing method according to claim 2, wherein information obtained by changing at least a part of said information included in said content is employed as said intermediate content.
- Claim 4. (original) The information providing method according to claim 3, wherein a condition determined in accordance with a request from a user is defined as said condition that is defined in advance.
- Claim 5. (original) The information providing method according to claim 4, wherein an intermediate content is selected at a level that corresponds to said condition determined in accordance with said request from said user.
- Claim 6. (original) The information providing method according to claim 5, wherein a condition for reducing or increasing the amount of information in said content is defined as said condition that is defined in advance.

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Claim 7. (original) The information providing method according to 1 claim 6, wherein a condition for extracting an information type that 2 represents said content is employed as said condition determined in advance. 3

Claim 8. (original) The information providing method according to claim 7, wherein price information is provided for said contents, and 2 compensation information based on said price information is provided for each of said intermediate contents at said levels that are generated.

Claim 9. (currently amended) An information providing apparatus 1 2 comprising:

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storage means for storing content that constitutes an entire body of 3 4

connection means for connecting said content to a network so as to 5 provide said content; 6

generation means for, based on a condition determined in advance, generating intermediate contents at a finite number of levels relative to said content, wherein said intermediate contents are hieratically structured according to an amount of information content the number of pages contained therein;

means for assigning each of said finite number of intermediate 12 contents an information level based on said amount of information content; 13 14

output means for selecting and outputting at least one of said 15 intermediate contents. 16

Claim 10. (original) The information providing apparatus according to 1 claim 9, wherein said generation means employs information included in said 2 content to generate intermediate contents at a finite number of levels. 3

Claim 11. (original) The information providing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said generation means employs information obtained by changing at least a part of the information included in said content to generate intermediate contents at a finite number of levels.

Claim 12. (original) The information providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said generation means includes input means for receiving a request from said user, and a condition designated in accordance with said request is employed as said condition determined in advance.

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Claim 13. (original) The information providing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said output means selects an intermediate content at a level that corresponds to said condition designated in accordance with said request from said user.

Claim 14. (original) The information providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said generation means generates said intermediate contents by defining, as said condition determined in advance, a reduction or an increase in the amount of information contained by said content.

Claim 15. (original) The information providing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said generation means generates said intermediate contents by defining, as said condition determined in advance, extraction of an information type that represents said content.

1 Claim 16. (original) The information providing apparatus according to 2 claim 15, further comprising:

price storage means for storing said content in correlation of with price information; and

compensation means for providing compensation information that is based on said price information for each of said intermediate contents at said levels that are generated.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The information providing method according to claim 1, further comprising associating a content price for each of the intermediate contents based on their information content the number of pages contained therein.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a price storage unit configured to associate a content price for each of the intermediate contents based on their information content the number of pages contained therein.

Claim 19. (currently amended) The information providing method according to claim 1, further comprising providing a <u>grammatical</u> description of the amount of information contained in said finite number of intermediate contents.

Claim 20. (canceled)

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Claim 21. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

according to claim 9, further comprising means for providing a grammatical

description of the amount of information contained in said finite number of

intermediate contents.

Claim 22. (canceled)

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1 Claim 23. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a 2 tangible media comprising:

computer readable program codes coupled to the tangible media for providing, via a network, content that constitutes an entire body of information based on conditions that are defined in advance, the computer readable program codes configured to cause the program to:

generate a finite number of intermediate contents for content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said intermediate contents are hieratically structured according to an amount of information content the number of pages contained therein;

assign each of said finite number of intermediate contents an information level based on said amount of information content; and select at least one of said intermediate contents and providing information at a selected level.

Claim 24. (new) The computer program product according to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program to provide a description of the amount of information contained in said finite number of intermediate contents.

Claim 25. (new) The computer program product according to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program to associate a content price for each of the intermediate contents based on the number of pages contained therein.